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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,352	06/23/2003	Finn C. Lundsgaard	C12012/129181	1705

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EXAMINER

GORDON, BRIAN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1743

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,352

Applicant(s)

LUNDSGAARD ET AL.

Examiner

Brian R. Gordon

Art Unit

1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8-16, 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 5, 7 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Interpretations

2. As to claim 11, the liquid sample path and filter are mentioned in reference to sample entry port but are not positively claimed as elements of the device. The claim should be amended to reflect such.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fanning et al. US 5,965,090.

Fanning et al. disclose an automatic sample testing machine for testing samples stored in test cards. The machine has a test sample positioning system for moving a

tray containing a plurality of test sample cards and fluid receptacles among various stations in the machine.

The device processes test cards 28 (testing devices). The device also comprises a carousel incubation station 600. The carousel 604 is housed in an enclosure that is maintained at an appropriate incubation temperature for the particular assay, for example, 35 degrees C. The enclosure is partially broken away in FIGS. 1 and 2 in order to show the carousel 604. The carousel 604 is rotated by a drive system 612 in synchronism with the movement of the boat 22 over the rear of the base pan 26 by the test sample positioning system 100, so as to place the next slot in the carousel 604 in line with the slot 602 opposite the next card in the cassette 26. As seen in the Figures the carousel is comprised of an outer housing and further includes an inner tubular member (holder member) with structural fins extending therefrom outward to an outer housing wall to form slots (compartments).

As the cards 28 are being incubated in the incubation station 600, the cards are periodically, sequentially pushed out of the slots of the carousel 604 at the top of the carousel 604, one at a time, by a reciprocating rack and pinion driver 620 and an associated stepper motor. The cards 28 are moved by an optical scanner card transport station 700 (moving device) past a fluorescence and transmittance optics station 800 (measuring/ detection station) having a transmittance substation 802 and a fluorescence substation 804 (column 8, lines 47-55).

Referring to FIG. 26, in a preferred embodiment a stand-alone cassette identification station 80 is provided to facilitate the processing of the cards 28 by the

machine 20. The station 80 consists of a computer terminal having a monitor 84 and attached keyboard 86 and bar code reader 88. A conventional host CPU and memory are contained in the station 80, which are not shown. The host CPU runs a menu-driven software program that prompts a technician to enter patient or sample information that is to be associated with each of the cards 28. The station 90 has a data port allowing it to communicate with the machine 20 or another computer (col. 21, line 56-65).

The pipetting station 300 includes the pipette 302 (probe) to transfer test samples.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5, 7, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior does not teach nor fair suggest the holder housing has a bead which extends circumferentially around the wall portion perpendicular to the center axis of the housing, and wherein the test device has a bottom with at least two notches each notch being adapted to engage the bead on the holder housing so that the engagement of the bead with the first notch defines the first position for the test device, and so that the engagement of the bead with the second notch defines the second position for the test device and the detector means is a reflection detector having a light emitter and in which the bottom of the test device is reflective.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Stylli; Chari et al.; Hutchins; Burleigh M. et al.; Uzan; Michel et al.; Masterson; Brian K. et al.; Griner; Christopher D.; Grandone; Cass J.; Armes; William P. et al.; Nosco; Louis C. et al.; Smith; Michael R. et al.; and Maes; Gregory R. et al. disclose various analyzers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian R. Gordon whose telephone number is 571-272-1258. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, with 2nd and 4th F off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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